

BLESSINGS OR CURSES

COVENANT BLESSINGS OR CURSES FOR ISRAEL

By Arlen L. Chitwood

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt harken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations on earth:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Blessed...

Blessed...

Blessed...

Blessed...” (Deut. 28:1-3a, 4a, 5a, 6a; cf. Lev. 26:3ff).

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Cursed...

Cursed...

Cursed...

Cursed...” Deut. 28:15, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a; cf. Lev. 26:14ff).

The “commandments” of the Lord refer back to *His commandments in the Mosaic Covenant* made with the nation of Israel through Moses at Sinai (Ex. 19:5ff), 430 years following God’s initial statement to Abraham concerning the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; cf. Gen. 15:1-21; Gal. 3:16-18), forming a *foundational base* upon which the Mosaic Covenant rests (*one covenant resting upon the*

foundational base of the other, with the latter covenant inseparably dependent upon and tied to the former).

The Abrahamic Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant is *unconditional* and was given about ten years after Abraham had entered into the land of Canaan, though referenced about fifteen years earlier while Abraham was still in Ur of the Chaldees, at the time of his call.

God had Abraham slay and cut up five different animals, placing the pieces on the ground after a particular fashion. Then, after God had put Abraham to sleep, He passed between these pieces, ratifying a covenant with Abraham, a covenant concerning *Abraham’s SEED and A LAND with certain specified boundaries* (Gen. 15:9-21).

And the inference from *God acting alone in this manner* — passing *alone* between the dissected animal remains — had to do with the thought that *if this covenant was ever broken, the One making the covenant (God Himself) would become like these dissected animals*.

The SEED of Abraham in the covenant had to do with Abraham’s lineage through Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob’s twelve sons, the lineage from which Israel’s Messiah, as well, would eventually come.

The LAND in the covenant had to do with a large tract of land in the Middle East, with specified boundaries referenced in Gen. 15:18-21. These boundaries present problems for some Bible students (e.g., location of “the river of Egypt”). But, without entering into this problem, suffice it to say that the land, any way one looks at the matter, can only include *far more territory* than the existing nation in the Middle East possesses (which would include any territory presently being disputed).

And, entering into this controversy is unnecessary anyway, for, in the middle of the coming Tribulation, the existing Jewish nation in the Middle East is going to be uprooted from the land which they presently possess and be driven back out among the nations, *with all of the land then coming under Gentile dominion and control* (Luke 21:20-24).

Then, as God deals with the whole house of Israel out among the nations during the last half of the Tribulation (both the Jewish people presently in the land and those scattered among the nations worldwide — both together, presently between 13,000,000 and 14,000,000), bringing them to the place of repentance through Gentile persecution — God’s Son can take care of the land’s boundaries when He returns to deal with the Jewish people and the nations among which He will find His people scattered.

The Mosaic Covenant

The Mosaic Covenant, unlike the Abrahamic Covenant upon which it rests, is *conditional*. It has to do with the rules and regulations governing the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob living in the land covenanted to Abraham and his seed, within a theocracy. The Mosaic Covenant, in this respect, is *the Magna Charta for the kingdom*.

The *conditions* inherent in the Mosaic Covenant have to do with the Jewish people either dwelling in or being uprooted from the land in the Abrahamic Covenant and, in conjunction with the preceding, realizing or not realizing the blessings within the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3) — *all dependant on whether or not they keep God’s covenant*.

The Jewish people were to dwell in the land within a theocracy (*God dwelling in their midst and governing His people through His covenant with them*). And, in this manner, the nations were to be governed, reached with God’s message, and blessed — *governed by, reached by, and blessed through Israel*.

If Israel obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, a governmental administration, evangelism, and blessings in the preceding manner would ensue, with the Jewish people remaining in the land, at the head of the nations, within a theocracy.

However, *if Israel disobeyed the voice of the Lord their God*, exactly the opposite would result. The theocracy would be taken from Israel, curses instead of blessings would be forthcoming, and the Jewish people would be uprooted from their land and driven out among the nations, occupying a

position at the tail of the nations, with blessings for the nations withheld.

And, of course, from Jewish history, the latter occurred, resulting in what has existed since 722 B.C., 605 B.C., 70 A.D., and what is about to happen in the middle of the coming Tribulation.

This is the reason that one can presently go into almost any city of any size in the world and find *Jews living in that city, with a Jewish cemetery outside the city.*

NONE of this should exist, and ALL of this exists solely because of what the Jewish people did and continue to do, with God remaining true to His Word concerning what He would do if the Jewish people disobeyed His voice.

And the Gentile nations, at the same time, have been negatively affected by that which the Jews have done and continue to do. The nations were to be blessed through the Jewish people dwelling in their land within a theocracy. But, because of that resulting from Jewish disobedience, these blessings are currently being withheld.

This succinctly stated scenario provides *the heart of the reason for EVERYTHING currently happening with Israel and the nations.* And as long as the Jewish people remain in the nation's current state (unrepentant, unbelieving), *the only thing which will change is A WORSENING of the current conditions.*

And this worsening of conditions today, already underway, began with Israel and the nations in the Middle East and has spread worldwide. And things have begun and developed in this manner, centrally because of what God's disobedient covenant people have done under a Zionist movement.

The Jewish people have re-entered an "empty, swept, and garnished" house, before the time (Matt. 12:43-45).

The Jewish people — apart from repentance, apart from their Messiah, apart from waiting for and allowing their Messiah to effect their restoration — have sought to emancipate themselves from exile, return to their homeland in this manner, and resume Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel.

And they have done this while ignoring the fact that *the complete house* has been left "desolate," "empty, swept, and garnished" (the people, their city [Jerusalem, which would include the Temple Mount], and their land).

Two Holocausts — Past, Future

To present proper thinking about the Jewish people in recent past times, today, and in what can only be in the immediate future, briefly note three periods: 1) The Holocaust immediately preceding and during WWII, 2) Israel in the land today, and 3) Israel during the Tribulation.

It wasn't just any nation which sought to produce a Jew-free Europe during the twelve-year reign of the Third Reich. Rather it was one of the most highly civilized nations on earth, one leading the nations in science, the arts, in theology. It was Lutheran Germany, under Hitler, which committed this atrocity, ending with the death of one-third of the world's Jewish population, 6,000,000 Jews.

WHERE was God when all of this occurred?

God was exactly where He has always resided relative to the Jewish people — *in their midst, suffering right along with them* (Ex. 3:1-7; Isa. 63:8, 9).

WHY didn't God stop that which was happening? After all, He could easily have done so. He, for example, could have used the Allies in their bombing runs over Germany. The Allies had known about these atrocities occurring in Europe as early as the summer of 1941, though did nothing to stop them.

God simply withheld His hand and allowed this persecution to continue, unabated, right up to the conclusion of the war in the spring of 1945.

Again, WHY did God act in this manner?

The answer is quite simple and easy to ascertain, *but only if one allows Scripture to provide the answer.*

THE SOLE REASON for the Holocaust was because the One residing in the Jewish people's midst had remained true to His Word.

He had told the Jewish people through Moses and the Prophets what would happen if they disobeyed His covenant with them. And that is exactly what the Jewish people had done over centuries of time; and, accordingly, things on the same order as the Holocaust, though not as intense, had previously occurred numerous times over the succeeding centuries.

Again, *ALL* of these things befalling the Jewish

people simply had to do with *God remaining true to His Word. The matter is really that simple.*

But now, near the end of the present dispensation and near the end of Man's Day, when God is about to turn back to and deal with the Jewish people in a final respect relative to their disobedience (finishing the last seven years of the previous Jewish dispensation [fulfilling Daniel's Seventieth Week]), *matters have begun to intensify.* The Holocaust was simply *a more intense form of God remaining true to His Word, which provides the evident reason why He didn't shorten or stop that which was happening until Nazi Germany was no longer capable of continuing the persecution.*

Then, the prolonged period of intense persecution during the Holocaust may very well have been for another reason as well, though inseparably related. It may have been *to prepare the Jewish people for the coming Holocaust which they are about to pass through, which will be far, far worse.*

Because of the continuance of the Jewish people in their stiff-necked, non-repentant ways, and particularly for the nation, in this mind-set, re-entering an "empty, swept, and garnished house," seeking to emancipate themselves apart from their Messiah, *grave days are in store for the nation in the immediate future.*

God, again remaining true to His Word, is about to heat the furnace seven times hotter than in past times, allowing the persecution at the hands of the Gentiles to intensify sevenfold (Lev. 26:18-31; Dan. 3:17-25).

He will begin by uprooting the Jewish people from their land in the middle of the Tribulation and scattering them back out among the nations with the remainder of world Jewry, *where He can deal with all of the Jewish people together.*

And God will then allow the Gentile nations to persecute the Jewish people *to whatever extent it takes to bring Israel to the place of repentance.*

This MUST occur, else God's Word would fail of fulfillment.

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